



The Arboretum Bulletin

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JOIN THE ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

Every person who is interested in the upbuilding of the State of Washington should be able to say that he or she has contributed to the building of the Arboretum. There is no better way than to become a member of the Arboretum Foundation, an organization which is sponsoring the pioneer work that must be done to make the Arboretum possible. You may become an associate member at two dollars a year, a participating member at \$5.00, an active member at \$10.00, or a sustaining member at \$25.00. If you will advise Mrs. First Johnson, secretary, Arboretum Office, 6620 White Building, Seattle, a membership application will be mailed you.

A JAPANESE GARDEN

A formal Japanese garden will be one of the great beauty spots of the Arboretum. Mr. Issaku Okamoto, Japanese consul with headquarters in Seattle, has interested his government in having the Society for International Cultural Relations of Japan sponsor the garden. The brother of the Emperor of Japan is president of the Society. When Count Soyeshima, a member of the board of directors, was in Seattle recently, he assured Consul Okamoto that every effort would be made by the Society to hasten work on the garden. The Society will send its own landscape artist here to supervise the construction and planting and will furnish all of the necessary material. The garden will cost in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars and will be an exact replica of one of Japan's noted formal gardens. Five acres in the lagoon section of the Arboretum has been set aside for the garden and it is expected that dredging will begin at an early date.

AZALEA WAY

(A radio talk by Herbert Ihrig, chairman of the Rhododendron Committee of the Arboretum Foundation, delivered over KOMO, October 19, 1937.)

Most every garden has at least one outstanding feature. Sometimes it is design, sometimes a path or favorite corner and sometimes just a group of plants that seem especially groomed for the picture.

In the Arboretum there will be so many such spots that to emphasize any one may seem a personal choice and somewhat unfair. Yet there are certain natural conditions that appear to have fixed the old speedway as one of the outstanding show places.

It begins just about the junction of Interlaken Boulevard and Washington Park Boulevard. It is about three-fourths of a mile long, in a northeasterly direction, and cuts through the heart of the area. On one side there are hills and ravines, on the other a meadow and stream.

It has been called Azalea Way because no other Arboretum in America is situated so favorably for the growth of an extensive variety of these lovely plants.

My assignment today is to describe this for you in detail, but frankly I do not know just what it is going to look like and, furthermore, know of no one else who does. However, from the various plantings now being developed the outline is gradually taking form and in the end I am sure you will have one of the loveliest walks in the world and the most interesting, for the climatic conditions are most favorable to this family of plants.

Of course, these climatic conditions are equally favorable for other groups, but as azaleas and rhododendrons, which are botanically the same, are the most showy and interesting, it was considered advisable to feature them extensively.

If you are to get an idea of what this is to be like it might help to picture in your mind one of those Maxfield Parish nature drawings . . . the kind that are so beautiful as to be almost unreal.

This is what it means to me, for the extent and variety of beauty that will be encompassed in this area passes beyond my limited imagination.

Besides this beauty, there is a background that is a strange and conflicting combination. Here is science and romance, patience and adventure—conflicting attributes that have gone hand in hand.

Since the first East India ships sailed to the Orient they have brought back glass-covered deckloads of plants from the ports of India and China. Some from temples and shrines, others from explorations in savage lands, but the stream has been almost continuous, especially to England and Holland. From the new plant strains that were introduced and improved, these countries have developed a host of new azaleas and rhododendrons that surpass those of any other country. Even our western azalea (*A. Occidentale*), commonly called Oregon Azalea, has produced for them a family of hybrids that are unsurpassed yet almost unknown in America. Meanwhile Japan, with a commendable artistry, has developed a group of evergreen azaleas that are masterpieces.

England alone has over one hundred rhododendrons that are superior to those available here and again they are practically unknown in America.

All these, we hope, will find a place in Azalea Way and yet it will not be planted exclusively with azaleas and rhododendrons. With them will be grouped low evergreens, Japanese cherries, magnolias and every known combination that can be properly associated.

Here botanical sequences, which generally prevail in an Arboretum, will to some extent be disregarded. Instead there will be studies in design, color and association.

Here also the Tenny memorial collection will occupy a prominent place—a gift of Mrs. Tenny and a fitting reminder of the pioneer work Dr. and Mrs. Tenny have done in introducing to the Northwest a wealth of plant material previously unknown.

Among the features of Azalea Way will be the view of the hillsides and valley. Just east of the southern end is a wide ravine that will be known as Rhododendron Dell or Rhododendron Glen. I do not know just what they will name it but it is really immaterial, for to get an idea of what this will be like I will ask you to again draw on your imagination and think of one of those dream-like South Sea glens that Pierre Loti and Stoddard described so beautifully, for the finished plan will vie with any of them.

One calls for a slender stream that will break from the undergrowth at the head of the ravine and come tumbling down over huge rocks in a series of minor falls and pools to eventually lose itself in the valley below. Among these rocks alpine or rock rhododendrons in sheets of sulphur, carmine, rose and blue. On each side the hills will break

away gradually, their summits spired with dark evergreens. Between them forest rhododendrons—the kind that grow thirty or forty feet in height—crowding for supremacy and breaking through every opening. Further down the shrub-like forms will flood the hillside with colors known only to India and China.

Occasionally, in contrast to this, will be a large-leaved variety like Falconeri or Grande with their large, leathery leaves looking like something left over from a prehistoric age. On minor promontories large dome-like trees with their thousands of flower trusses.

All this beauty and interest will flow out of this glen and literally spill itself over Azalea Way.

As you go northward from here the ground contours change and different groupings will shape new pictures.

The first ridge will be starred with dogwood—a great variety from all over the world. The north slope will shelter the lovely magnolia group sponsored by Mrs. James Gallagher.

Then comes another ravine that will be developed as beautifully as the one I have described. Then on through oaks, elms and other plantings I have no time to explain, but each ridge and ravine will be treated individually, each a picture in itself and yet will merge in the composite design of Azalea Way.

I wish to repeat one previous statement, that this planting will not follow botanical sequences. An arboretum is a museum of living things. These must be classified, catalogued and grouped in proper scientific order. Garden planting knows no such rules. Here association of types, color and design are of first importance.

Azalea Way will bring you the best examples of garden art that is obtainable. There will be studies in mass planting, unusual groupings, different color combinations and type associations. Many of these will be adaptable to your own garden and, best of all, they will be properly labeled as to name and variety.

Azalea Way will in all probability reach its peak of beauty in May, but flowering sequences will give it color in March, April, May, June and July, while fruit and foliage will enrich its coloring late into fall.

One more thought. In Washington, D. C., there is a group of Japanese cherries planted around the Potomac Basin. Each year thousands of people of Washington go to view them and numerous excursions are run from nearby cities. It is considered a sight worth going miles to see.

It is my humble opinion that when Azalea Way is completed it will be the outstanding floral display of America and a demonstration of the extensive possibilities we possess in the Northwest. I have no doubt that people will make long pilgrimages to see it while it will be a constant joy to those of us living in this vicinity.

THE ROYAL AZALEA

The Amateur Gardeners Study Club, of which Mrs. Gladys France Baker is president, has presented to the Arboretum 275 *Azalea Schlippenbachii* as "a perpetual flower show". Mrs. Baker gives this information concerning the Royal Azalea:

"*Azalea Schlippenbachii*, the Royal Azalea, is a native of Korea, where it grows in thin woods, and also of limited areas in Japan and Manchuria. First discovered more than eighty years ago and introduced to the western world some forty years later, it is only just now becoming known in gardens.

"Upright in habit, it will reach an ultimate height of from eight to perhaps fifteen feet. Its leaves, the largest in the azalea family, up to five inches long and broad in proportion, are borne in whorls at the ends of the branches, giving the whole plant a most distinctive appearance.

"The flowers, broadly funnel-form to three inches across and borne in terminal clusters of three to six, appear just as the leaves are unfolding. They are slightly fragrant and of a pale pink of singular purity with no taint of either magenta or salmon. The foliage takes on vivid autumn coloring of orange, red and crimson.

"Since it refuses to hybridize with other azaleas, it comes absolutely true from seed. It is dependably hardy and very beautiful—one of the finest of Asiatic azaleas."

ARBORETUM NOTES

The fall planting season is a busy time at the Arboretum. All those gay young things that have been so tenderly nurtured in the greenhouse and nurseries, will soon be making their debuts and taking their places in the family life of the garden.

Double spading is being done in the Pinetum, preparing the soil for the thousands of young conifers that are ready to be planted. A very fine collection has been started from seeds and cuttings gathered from the four corners of the world. This collection will eventually include every known conifer.

A large shipment of acorns has just been received from Arnold Arboretum. These potential oaks include such interesting names as these: Black, Basket, Jack, Live, Mountain White, Pin. Post, Red, Scarlet, Vine, Water, White, Tan Bark, and Upland Willow. These should add a definite splash of color to the landscape eventually.

A beautiful little kiosk is being constructed at East Lee and 28th Ave. It is another lodge entrance on a smaller scale and is being built of the same kind of stone as that used in the East Madison Street lodge.

GIFTS TO THE ARBORETUM

Following is a list of persons and the number of different species and varieties of plants and seeds which they have donated to the Arboretum, according to Frederick Leissler, Assistant Director:

Mr. H. A. Dent, Edmonds, Wn.....	25
Mr. Jack Sullivan, Everett, Wn.....	31
Prof. H. S. Harrar, University of Wash.....	9
Bureau Plant Industry, Dept. Plant Introduc- tion, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.....	73
Seattle Park Dept.	325
Wm. C. Meyer, U. S. Forest Service.....	15
A. H. Antonie, Forest Service	9
E. D. Churchill, U. S. Forest Service	5
Donald F. McKay, U. S. Forest Service	5
W. H. Wirt, U. S. Forest Service	80
David E. Hervey, U. S. Forest Service	45
H. C. Jacobs, U. S. Forest Service	28
Tom Swofford, U. S. Forest Service	11
Jack H. Boe, U. S. Forest Service	2
H. Phil Brandner, U. S. Forest Service	52
E. F. Rapraeger, U. S. Forest Service	15
J. E. Grant, U. S. Forest Service	17
Guy R. Ramsey, U. S. Forest Service	10
J. W. Fox, U. S. Forest Service	10
J. G. Stanley, U. S. Forest Service	17
Chas. R. Ross, U. S. Forest Service	29
W. R. Reader, Calgary, Canada	58
Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pa.	23
Brooklyn Botanical Garden, New York	43
Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Eng.....	20
Kyoto Botanical Garden, Kyoto, Japan.....	16
Department Forestry, Manila, P. I.	2
G. E. Kastengren, Seattle, Wn.	50
Ludwig Metzger, U. of W. Medicinal Garden	16
Union Lumber Co., Fort Bragg, Calif.....	2
Forest Exp. Station, Syracuse, N. Y.	11
Mrs. Joseph Alexander, Seattle, Wn.....	15
Mr. George Kinnear, Seattle, Wn.....	2
Mr. Chas. Wright, Seattle, Wn.	64
English Speaking Union, Seattle, Wn.	1
Mrs. Oscar Nelson, Port Angeles, Wn.....	38
Mrs. O. F. Lamson, Seattle, Wn.	24
Andre Ostbo, Medina, Wn.	58
Ray Lecture, Seattle, Wn.	38
Cecil Young, Seattle, Wn.	12
Mrs. T. C. Frye, Seattle	55
Paul Stenneberg, Seattle, Wn.	23
Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Mass.	59

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RADIO SERIES FOR NOVEMBER AND
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of the Nation*

- Nov. 8—The Romance of Trees and Ships.
Nov. 15—The Romance of the Lumber Industry.
Nov. 22—Trees and Overland Transportation.
Nov. 29—Trees and Manufacturing.
Dec. 6—Trees and Our Future.
Dec. 13—Trees in Song and Story.
Dec. 20—Famous Trees of History.
Dec. 27—The Yule Tree.